ROTHBURY

Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1903.

ROTHBURY:
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ROTHBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Medical Officer.

For the Year ending December 31st, 1903.

Rothbury, January 20th, 1904.

To the Rothbury Urban District Council.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Allow me to submit to you this my Eighth Annual Report, concerning the year ended December 31st, 1903.

There were registered 35 births, of which 16 were males, and 19 females. This is twice as many as last year, and a rate of 26·71, that for England and Wales being about 28·0. Our previous average was 28 with a rate of 21·5, so that this is a distinct improvement. They were registered, during the first quarter 9; the second 8; the third 10; and the last 8.

The number of deaths registered was 22, of which 3 did not belong to the district, this leaves 19 who did, and is at a rate of 14·50, estimating the population at 1310. It is the same rate as last year, the pervious average being 16·10, that for England and Wales being Urban 17·8, and Rural 16·0. Of the 19 residents, 12 were males, and 7 females, and they were registered each month as follows; January, 1; February 2; March, 2; April, 2; May, 0; June, 3; July, 1; August, 2; September 2; October, 4; November, 1; December, 2.

As 35 births were registered, and 19 deaths, it follows, that the excess of 16, was naturally added to the population. This gives a rate of 12·30, a little above the rate for England and Wales of about 12·0.

As there were 3 infants who died during the year, while 35 were born, this gives a rate of only 85·7 per 1000 born, as against that for England and Wales of about 151·0. Our previous average was 95 0.

The age periods at which these deaths occurred, were, below 1 year 3; one to five, 1; fifteen to twenty-five, 1; twenty-five to sixty-five, 5; while 9, or about one half, were over 65 years of age. A female was 86 years, and a male 83 years of age, 6 of the others being over 72 years of age.

There were no deaths due to the ordinary class of Epidemic or Zymotic diseases.

Influenza caused the death of an infant, and Enteritis, that of a child aged 2 years. Other causes of death being Phthisis 3, being at a rate of 2·3 per 1000; our average is 1·22 (being 11 deaths in 7 years). There were no deaths due to the other Respiratory class of diseases. Cancer caused 3 deaths, there being 6 in the whole previous 7 years, or a rate of 0·67 per 1000. Permature birth caused 1; Heart disease, 2; Apoplexy, 1; Senile decay, 2. Injuries caused 1, in an infant, accidentally upsetting a pot of boiling water upon it. An Inquest was held upon this infant, being the only one.

Of the Strangers one was an adult female, who died of Peritonitis whilst on a visit at the Hillside. The other two were tramps, who died in the Workhouse, one of Phthisis, the other of Heart disease.

There were 23 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year; viz, Small Pox, 1; Erysipelas, 4, and Scarlet Fever, 18, without any deaths.

The Small Pox was in a tramp, aged 51, who on the eighth day of his illness, on December 18th, came into the tramp ward, not being detected until the next morning. Those near him that could be got at, were vaccinated, and disinfected, and telegrams sent to the 4 adjacent Unions. The place where he was known to have stayed at was visited and disinfected. Contacts being vaccinated. He was at once removed to the Isolation Hospital, the Ward &c. disinfected, and no further extension has occurred He is discharged cured and disinfected.

The four cases of Erysipelas were all between 25 and 65 years of age. They occurred, one in each of the months of February, May, August, and September. One was due to injury. Two were on the face, and two on the leg.

The Scarlet Fever.—4 of the 18, were aged from 1 to 5 years, 12 from 5 to 15, while the two others were 35 years of age. It began about April 27th, being imported. It soon spread from this unrecognised patient, to 3 other children, and directly and indirectly to 14 in all. Spite of caution, the healthy members of families were allowed too much outside amongst other children. Visits were made and instructions, with disinfectants left and sent, the affected families being kept from School. On July 28th a child came to the Knock Law on a visit, being then ailing. It turned out to be Scarlet Fever. They removed the child and disinfected conveyance. The place was disinfected, and no more cases arose. On November 23rd it broke out at Addyheugh Cottage, it had occurred there in April, 1901, but disinfection was thoroughly carried out, and I cannot help thinking that visitors brought

it. The child was isolated, all care used, disinfectants &c., and it did not spread. The house was disinfected.

The Isolation Hospital was used for the Small Pox patient, when the increased accommodation was found to be a very great boon indeed If this had not been, no caretaker could have been obtained. Washing and disinfection are now easily done there, and the ambulance carriage took the patient, it being disinfected afterwards.

A report having reached me, that discarded, used, Army blankets from South Africa, had been received at the Workhouse, I went and examined them. They were quite new.

The cow byre at Mrs. Watson's is rectified, At the Knock Law the drainage has not been pressed, as your own scheme is under consideration, and cess pits are not advisable. Mr. English had to have notice served on him to remove his manure from the yard, which he then did.

Two Sanitary Engineers have now surveyed your existing sewers and outlets. One has presented his plans, and the other will shortly.

The Water Company have considerably enlarged their tank at Whitton, viz, from 8000 to 32,000 gallons.

Plans have been passed for Cottage, with 2 stables and coach houses behind the Armstrong Cottages, with all sanitary requirements. These are all but finished. Others were passed for 3 in South Terrace Lane, these are also getting well on. As also 2 more in Silverton Terrace. All sanitary requirements are to be furnished.

The drain from the Cottages behind the South Terrace, has several times been blocked up. I fear the fall may not be sufficient. That in J. Scott's has also been stopped again; here a bad bend has been straightened. At Kimmernod the spouting has been attended to, and drainage into a cess pit. The old Cloud House has been spouted, and put in better sanitary condition. R. Tait's and others privy and ash-midden being too full, notice was served upon them, and it was rectified; it is occurring again however.

Your Inspector periodically keeps on going over portions of the District. A good many nusisances are removed, but 5 legal notices have had to be served.

At the Queen's Head Inn Mr. Bell has his part very tidy, but the landlord has not furnished a manure midden, nor ash pit. The down-spout at back yard much needs sink and drain to it. Better drainage

is here required.

Under the Workshops Act I inspected Messrs. Mowitt's, and Messrs. Rand's, tailors &c., finding all in good order.

I am again indebted to Mr. Bertram, of Cragside, for the following table of rainfall &c.

MONTHS.		INCHES.
JANUARY	...	4·71
FEBRUARY	..	2·01
MARCH	...	2·20
APRIL	...	1·66
MAY	...	1·93
JUNE	...	1·87
JULY	...	5·15
AUGUST	...	2·80
SEPTEMBER	...	2.89
OCTOBER	...	9·55
NOVEMBER	...	2·38
DECEMBER	...	3·34
	TOTAL	40·49

There were 204 wet days, and the hours of sunshine 1308, as against 1259 the year before. The average rainfall for 10 years is 33·80 inches.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW.

Medical Officer of Health

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